

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10980

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 19, 1973

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON FM CAN THO AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 471

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 19, 1973

SUMMARY: SCATTERED PROVINCE REPORTS SUGGEST THAT CEASE-FIRE II HAS NOT YET TAKEN HOLD IN MR IV. FIGHTING CONTINUES ACROSS THE DELTA, ESPECIALLY IN CHUONG THIEN. HEAVY CONCENTRATIONS OF GVN AND VC/ NVA TROOPS IN SOME LOCATIONS AND AN ABSENCE OF ORDERS TO GVN COMMANDERS ON WHO OWNS WHAT MAKE CONTINUED CLASHES DIFFICULT TO AVOID. ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO SOON TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CEASEFIRE WILL TAKE EFFECT IN THE DELTA, THE CHUONG THIEN FIGHTING BODES ILL FOR PEACE. END SUMMARY.

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1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) MR IV REPORTED 52 VC/ NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS JUNE 18, A SLIGHT INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS DAY' S 45. AMONG THESE WERE FIVE GROUND ASSAULTS, 37 ATTACKS BY FIRE, EIGHT HARASSMENTS, AND TWO ACTS OF TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE. DINH TUONG, WITH THREE GROUND ATTACKS, AND CHUONG THIEN, WITH TWO, SAW THE MOST ACTION. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE FIGHTING IN THE SPECIAL INTERPROVINCIAL TACTICAL ZONE IN BA XUYEN AND BAC LIEU. RVNAF MOUNTED TWELVE " SECURITY OPERATIONS" IN CHUONG THIEN, DINH TUONG, THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA OF CHAU DOC, AND HONG NGU DISTRICT, KIEN PHONG. GOVERNMENT FORCES LOST SIX KILLED AND 71 WOUNDED, WHILE CLAIMING 56 VC/ NVA DEAD AND 17 DETAINED.

(B) CHUONG THIEN SECTOR REPORTED 44 INCIDENTS JUNE 18, A FIGURE THAT EXCLUDED CONTACTS BY ARVN DIVISION FORCES. (SECTOR ROUTINELY BRIEFS MORE INCIDENTS THAN DOES CORPS). SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES, WITH UNDETERMINED CASUALTIES, TOOK PLACE IN DUC LONG AND LONG MY DISTRICTS. A NUMBER OF OUTPOSTS WITHIN THREE KILOMETERS OF VI THANH WERE UNDER VC MORTAR ATTACK AT 1015 HOURS JUNE 19. THE AMERICAN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE, JUST RETURNED FROM TWO- WEEK LEAVE, OBSERVED THAT THINGS LOOKED ABOUT THE SAME AS WHEN HE LEFT THE PROVINCE EXCEPT THAT THE VC WERE " GETTING AHEAD."

(C) IN DINH TUONG, THE HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS ON BOTH SIDES IN THE CENTER OF THE PROVINCE MAKES FIGHTING ALMOST INEVITABLE, EXPECIALLY SINCE LOCAL GVN COMMANDERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED BY MR IV TO ARRANGE CEASEFIRE AND TO DELIMIT TERRITORY. ALTHOUGH FIGHTING IS SOMEWHAT LESS INTENSE THAN DURING THE HIGH POINT TWO WEEKS AGO, THE PATTERN OF COMBAT REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT DURING CEASEFIRE I: SMALL UNIT ACTIONS, BOOBY- TRAPS, AND VC/ NVA MORTARING OF GVN OUTPOSTS. FOUR BOOBY- TRAP INCIDENTS JUNE 18 KILLED TWO RVNAF AND WOUNDED 11. OTHER ACTION THE SAME DAY KILLED TWO MORE GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS AND 10 VC/ NVA. AS USUAL, THE FIGHTING OCCURRED IN CAI LAY, CAI BE, AND SAM GIANG DISTRICTS.

(D) FIGHTING IN VINH LONG HAS INCREASED SINCE THE CEASE- FIRE TOOK EFFECT JUNE 15. BOTH GVN SECURITY OPERATIONS AND VC/ NVA INCIDENTS ARE UP. TWO HAMLETS CONTROLLED BY

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THE GVN BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE, AP NHUT IN TRA ON DISTRICT AND DONG HOA IN BINH MINH DISTRICT, ARE NOW UNDER VC CONTROL OR ARE HEAVILY CONTESTED. VINH LONG GVN OFFICIALS TOLD THE INTERPROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE THERE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NAIVE IF IT BELIEVES CEASEFIRE II WILL CURB VC MILITARY ACTIVITY.

(3) KIEN GIANG REPORTS INCREASED FIGHTING SINCE JUNE 15
ALONG VC/ NVA INFILTRATION CORRIDOR 1- C. SMALL UNIT
CONTACTS OCCUR DAILY. ONE OF THE SHARPEST TOOK PLACE
JUNE 17 IN KIEN LUONG DISTRICT, NEAR THE TRI TON CANAL.
THE FIRST PLATOON OF THE 518 TH RF COMPANY ENGAGED A VC
UNIT AND LOST SIX WOUNDED AND ONE MISSING.

2. TERRORISM: A HOA HAO CADRE FROM VINH BINH PROVINCE
CHARGED THAT GVN AGENTS, NOT THE VIET CONG, PLANTED
THE EXPLOSIVES WHICH KILLED 23 AND WOUNDED 88 CAMBODIANS
AT THE XOAI XIEM PAGODA ON MARCH 15 (CAN THO 0056). THE
CLAIM OCCURRED AT A JUNE 12 MEETING IN HOA HAO VILLAGE,
CHAU DOC, TO PLAN SECURITY FOR THE JUNE 17-19 CELEBRATION
THERE. THE VINH BINH HOA HAO DID NOT INDICATE THE
MOTIVE FOR THE ALLEGED GVN TERRORIST ACT, BUT HE USED
THE INCIDENT TO ILLUSTRATE THE NEED FOR THE HOA HAO TO
TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS LEST THE GVN PERPETRATE A SIMILAR
ACT AGAINST THE SECT. BARNES QUNQUOTEWHITEHOUSE

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